Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
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R 170001Z AUG 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY FROM ASST. SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MAP

- 1. SUGGEST YOU MAKE POINTS TO MARCOS AND OTHER SENIOR GOP FIGURES:
- -- THAT DOLS 17.1 MILLION OBTAINED FOR PHILIPPINES IN HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AUGUST 15 IS SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT, GIVEN USUAL PRACTICE OF SPLITTING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOUSE AND SENATE FIGURES.
- -- CONFERENCE COMMITTEE DECISION REFLECTS IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO BASE TALKS BY CONGRESS.
- -- ADMINISTRATION MADE MAJOR EFFORT TO OBTAIN THIS SECRET

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RESULT, IN WHICH I PLAYED EXTREMELY ACTIVE ROLE.

-- HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUES TO BE VIEWED AS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM BY CONGRESS, DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON RECENT IMPROVEMENTS. ONLY OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY RELATIONSHIP CARRIED THE DAY.

2. IN COORDINATION WITH H, I CARRIED ON EXTENSIVE CONSUL-

TATION ON HILL, FIRST WITH HOUSE AND LATER WITH SENATE, FOLLOWING UP ON INITIAL APPROACHES MADE BY VICE PRESIDENT AFTER HIS MANILIA VISIT. THESE CONSULTATIONS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO OUTCOME. IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AGREED AMOUNT WAS PROPOSED BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, WHO NOTED IMPORTANCE OF SENDING FAVORABLE SIGNALS AT THIS POINT IN SENSITIVE BASE TALKS. CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI OFFERED HIS SUPPORT, LEADING TO FAVORABLE OUTCOME. SENATOR GLENN WAS ALSO STRONG FIGURE IN SFRC AND CONFERENCE.

- 3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT GOP IS CONDUCTING TOP LEVEL EXAMINATION OF BASE TALKS, AND I HOPE THAT MAKING MARCOS FULLY AWARE OF THIS SUCCESS WILL ENHANCE CLIMATE IN WHICH HE DECIDES HOW PHILIPPINE SIDE WILL PROCEED ON REMAINING ISSUES.
- 4. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SECURITY, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE208577
Document Source: Core

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: JCMONJO:AP Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D780336-0748

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780853/aaaabsen.tel

Line Count: 81 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation Codes. Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 629ffc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN SS

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: SECRET Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 04 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1708479 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SECURITY ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MAP

TAGS: MASS, RP To: MANILA Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/629ffc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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